ACCOUNT

Eng. Hist. Soc. vol. 13

OF THE

DIVISIONS

Sun IN London

Portsmouth.

C S K

LONDON:

Printed in the YEAR, 1711.

A COUNTER
OF THE
DIVISIONS

A Plain and True ACCOUNT OF THE Diviſions in *Portſmouth.*

THE Beginning of our Diviſions and Diſtractions may be Dated from the Time Mr. *Ward*, our Vicar, made Choice of Mr. *Ely Stanyford* for Church-warden, at *Eaſter*, 1703. in Oppoſition to the major part of the then Veſtry. At which time, Mr. *Biſſell*, Mr. *Vineing*, and many others (who now eſpouſe Mr. *Ward* to ſerve their preſent Turn) violently oppos'd him; and did Declare, *That Mr.* Ward *had no Peremptory Right to the Choice of one Church-warden.* And by their Proceedings againſt him, did prevent his Church-warden from being Sworn. At which time, thoſe Choſen wholly by the Pariſh, were Sworn, and Served; (*viz.*) Mr. *James White*, and Mr. *Henty*; as was the next Year, Mr. *Reynolds*, and Mr. *Anram*, who were Choſen by the Pariſhioners only.

In Mr. *Nathaniel Harford's* Mayoralty, which was in 1706, and 1707. there were Three Vacancies in the Court of Aldermen, which he then attempted to fill up, by Summoning all the Aldermen to Meet, and Elect New ones. But they (through the Artifices of ſome now Living) being unhappily Divided, Five againſt Five, could come to no Determination; ſo no Election was made. The Aldermen then Living, were Mr. *Harford*, then Mayor, Mr. *Hedger*, Mr. *Deacon*, Mr. *Vineing*,

Mr. *Vineing*, and Mr. *Harman*, on the one Side, and Mr. *John Thomas*, Mr. *Seagar*, Mr. *Thomas White*, Mr. *Joseph Whitehorne*, and Mr. *Maydman*, on the other.

In Mr. *Vineing*'s Mayorality, which was in 1707, and 1708. Mr. *Bissell*, Mr. *Vineing*, &c. (being desirous of having the Court of Aldermen fill'd up, provided they could have it done to their own Humour) employ'd an Agent to bring over to their Party, one from the other Side; who first Tamper'd with Mr. *John Thomas*, and offer'd him a Large Sum of Money, on Condition he would join with the abovesaid Five Aldermen, in Electing such as they should name to him, which he rejected.

Being disappointed in him, the like Attempt was made on Mr. *Joseph Whitehorne*, and a Proposal in Writing given him, in which he had an assurance, not only of Two Hundred Pounds, but also of the Mayoralty the *Michaelmas* following, in Case of Compliance; which he also refused, and rejected.

The same Year died Mr. *Hedger*, and Mr. *Deacon*, which put them out of all hopes of Procuring an Election of Aldermen to their Minds. They therefore resolved to keep the Mayorality in the Three surviving Aldermen of that side *(viz.)* Mr. *Vineing*, Mr. *Harman*, and Mr. *Harford*, and not to think any more of making of Aldermen; which they found they could make Interest enough with the Burgesses to do, and especially with the Gentlemen Burgesses at large, by their Crafty Insinuations, and by basely Calumniating those on the other Side: In which Practice, they with Mr. *Bissell*, and their Agents, have been very Liberal.— This *Triumverate* was continued till the Death of Mr. *Harford*, in his Second Mayorality.

Mr. *Harman* in his turn, was Mayor a Second time, in 1708, and 1709. when Mr. *Seagar* and the others, often Solicited Him to call a Court, and fill up the Vacancies in their Body; but he always either refuſed, or neglected ſo to do. Upon which, Mr. *Seagar*, Mr. *John Thomas*, Mr. *White*, Mr. *Whitehorne*, and Mr. *Maydman*, did Convene themſelves, and being the majority of the Aldermen then living, *Did adjudge that Mr.* Harman *by refuſing or neglecting to fill up the Court of Aldermen, as the* CHARTER *directs, tho' often Solicited thereto, had thereby given juſt Cauſe for his Removal; and did then Elect and Swear Mr.* Maydman *Mayor accordingly.*

After which, they Preſented Mr. *Harman*, then Mayor, with an Inſtrument in Writing, Sign'd by them all, demanding him to reſign his Office, together with the *Enſign*'s of the Mayorality to Mr. *Maydman*. Which he refuſing, *Mandamus*'s and other Proceedings at Law were commenced againſt him, in the Name of Mr. *Maydman*, as Mayor of *Portſmouth*.

The ſame Day that Mr. *Seagar*, *&c.* Preſented the aboveſaid Inſtrument to Mr. *Harman* in Court, Mr. *Biſſell* ſpeaking of the Five Aldermen, and their Proceedings, ſaid, *Da——n them, what would they have? would they* (ſaid he) *have Five Aldermen* (the Number then wanting) *let them name any Five that live within the Walls of* Portſmouth, *and are now Burgeſſes, and* (ſays he) *they ſhall have them (one Man excepted)* it's well known whom this excepted Perſon is.

But from thence it is plain, that no Alderman could be made without his Direction, or Approbation (tho' but Town-Clerk.) He well knew that the Perſon ſo excepted againſt by him, would unavoidably be brought in, in caſe they ſhould conſent to an Election of New Aldermen, which through his implacable Enmity, he reſolved to prevent.

Finding they could not faſten their Bribes on Mr. *Thomas*, nor Mr. *Whitehorne*, in Mr. *Harman*'s Mayorality, an offer was made to Mr. *Thomas White* of Five Hundred Pounds, and an aſſurance of being made Mayor the *Michaelmas* following, in caſe he would come over to the Intereſt of Mr. *Vineing*, Mr. *Harman*, and Mr. *Harford* (or rather to Mr. *Biſſell*'s) and join with them in making ſuch Perſons Aldermen as they would have; (ſo as the Perſon Mr. *Biſſell* excepted againſt might be excluded) that his Brother Mr. *James White* ſhould be one of the Aldermen ſo to be made; and that he ſhould have the Nomination of a certain Number of Burgeſſes. All which Large Offers he rejected, with Scorn and Contempt.

Mr. *Harford* was Elected and Sworn Mayor, in *September*, 1709. he was then in a declining State of Health, and after growing worſe, that his Life was deſpair'd of; Mr. *Biſſell*, Mr. *Vineing*, *&c.* or their Agents, did Employ a Perſon again to Tamper with Mr. *Whitehorne*, who offer'd him Three Hundred Pounds and the Mayorality, on the Death of Mr. *Harford*, which was daily expected, in caſe he would conſent to come into the Meaſures of them the ſaid Mr. *Biſſell*, Mr. *Vineing*, *&c.* which he abſolutely refuſed on any terms to comply with.

Mr. *Harford* then Mayor, Died the 9th of *December*, 1709. A Succeſſor (as in all ſuch Caſes) muſt be Choſen by the ſurviving Aldermen, out of their own Body; the which was now reduced to Seven only, including Mr. *John Thomas*, who lived out of Town, and was at that time Indiſpoſed. Mr. *Biſſell*, Mr. *Vineing*, Mr. *Harman*, *&c.* being Allarm'd with the fear of Mr. *Maydman*'s being Choſen Mayor (which was then expected) they uſed all poſſible means to prevent

it,

it, which in conclusion they effectually did; and Procured Mr. *Whitehorne*, without his Knowledge, and contrary to his Inclinations, and indeed, to all expectation to be Elected Mayor (tho' he Voted against himself) he was Sworn such accordingly, by Mr. *Bissell*, as Town-Clerk; who declared, *He was legal Mayor, and Chosen as the* CHARTER *directs, and that he would stand by it.*

At which time, Mr. *Vineing* having obtain'd his End, in preventing Mr. *Maydman*'s being made Mayor, Triumph'd over him; and told him, *That he was now no more Mayor of* Portsmouth, *than the Protestant-Joyner; nor never would be, unless it were in the World of the Moon.* So that it is plain, Mr. *Bissell*, Mr. *Vineing*, and Mr. *Harman*, made Mr. *Whitehorne* Mayor, without Consulting him, or giving the least intimation to him, of their Design of so doing; tho' they, and they only, and their Agents, are the Persons who Prosecutes him, for taking on him the Mayoralty.

Mr. *Whitehorne* now Mayor, with the Advice and Consent of the majority of the Aldermen Living, did (as he conceived he was in Duty bound to do) Issue Summon's to all the Aldermen to meet on the 2d of *January* following, to Choose Three New Aldermen: Which so allarm'd Mr. *Bissell*, Mr. *Vineing*, *&c.* that they left no Means untried to prevent the said Election. And accordingly, they, or their Agents, employ'd a Person to go to Mr. Mayor, and try his utmost to prevail with him, either by Bribery, Perswasion, or otherwise, to desist from proceeding to the intended Election. Which the Person so Employ'd, did do, that very Morning before the Election. He used many Arguments with him, to perswade him to desist, and offer'd him several Hundred Pounds; nay, bid him name what Sum he pleased, in reason, and he should

immediately

immediately have it, in caſe he would comply; all which he rejected.

Being thus diſappointed again in Mr. *Whitehorne*, then Mayor, they ſet upon Mr. *Maydman*; and tho' they prevented his being made Mayor juſt before, and ſo long oppoſed him; yet had aſſurance enough to tell him, *he loſt being ſo, by the Treachery of his own Party* (as they call'd it) and by their Crafty Inſinuations, Large Promiſes (if not Large Bribes) they effectually brought him over to their Meaſures; and did prevent at that time any Election, being then Three, againſt Three, Mr. *John Thomas* being abſent.

After which, fearing Mr. Mayor would take another opportunity of doing what had been ſo long contended for, and which was abſolutely neceſſary for the Support of the *CORPORATION*; the Court of Aldermen being reduced to Seven only, including the Mayor, ~~and one of them~~ Indiſpoſed, and Living out of Town; tho' by CHARTER they ought to be Twelve, and a Mayor. Mr. *Biſſell*, Mr. *Vineing*, *&c.* and their Agents, ſince Bribery would not prevail on the Mayor, reſolved to try what Threatnings would do; and accordingly gave out, *That in caſe he would think no more of making Aldermen, during his Mayoralty, he ſhould enjoy the ſame in Peace, and wear it out quietly; but in caſe he proceeded to make new Aldermen, they would Proſecute him, and turn him out of his Office, and ruine him (tho' they themſelves made him Mayor)* in hopes thereby to deter him from proceeding therein; that ſo they might get the Mayoralty into their own Power again the *Michaelmas* following.

But all this did not hinder him from doing his Duty; for in *April* following, he Summon'd all the Aldermen to meet, and choſe Two New Aldermen. When, purſuant to the Summons, there appear'd Mr. *White-*

Mr. *Whitehorne* then Mayor, Mr. *John Thomas*, Mr. *Seagar*, and Mr. *Tho. White*. The others *(viz.)* Mr. *Vineing*, Mr. *Harman*, and Mr. *Maydman*, well knowing they could not prevent what was intended, refuſed to obey the Summons. The above-mention'd being the Majority, and duly Summon'd, proceeded to the Election, and did Unanimouſly Chooſe Mr. *Ridge*, and Mr. *James White* for Two of their Aldermen; and immediately Swore them ſuch accordingly.

In *May* following, Mr. Mayor Summon'd all the Aldermen again, to meet and Chooſe Three New Aldermen; at which time Mr. *Maydman* joyn'd with them (none Abſenting but Mr. *Vineing*, and Mr. *Harman*) when they Unanimouſly Choſe Mr. *Stanyford*, Mr. *Antram*, and Mr. *Blackly* Aldermen; and immediately ſent for Mr. *Biſſell*, who without any Objection Swore them ſuch accordingly; which was the 13th of *May*, 1710.

Preſently after a Sixth Alderman was made *(viz.)* Mr. *Thomas Miſſing*, which Compleated the whole Court of Aldermen. And tho' they are all of them Perſons of known Zeal and Affection for Her Majeſty and Government, and particularly for the Church of *England*, as by Law Eſtabliſhed, none of them Diſſenting from it; yet this ſo exaſperated Mr. *Vineing*, Mr. *Biſſell*, *&c.* and their Agents and Abettors, that they immediately reſolved on Revenge. And accordingly, one *Richard Allen* on the 16th of *May*, was Hired to Swear againſt the Mayor, *That he had heard and did believe that Mr.* Whitehorne *had taken upon him, and did Execute the Office of Mayor of* Portſmouth, *and that he had not (as he verily believed) Received the Sacrament according to the uſage of the Church of* England, *within one Year before; as the Thirteenth of King* Charles *the Second directs.* Which no doubt he muſt be Subborn'd

born'd to do; for he being ask'd about it ſome time after, declared---*That he did not know Mr.* Whitehorne, *or did he know whether ever he had ſeen him in his whole Life*; but would not diſcover who employ'd him to make the ſaid *Affidavit*, which bears Date the 16th of *May*, 1710.

Upon which *Affidavit*, a Motion was made in *Trinity-Term*, at the *Queens-Bench-Bar* in *Weſtminſter-Hall*, for Leave to File an Information againſt Mr. *Whitehorne*, for taking on him to Execute the Office of Mayor, not being Qualified thereto, purſuant to the 13th of King *Charles* the Second; which Attempt they fail'd in.

Being Diſappointed in their Deſign that way, they Preferr'd a Bill of Indictment againſt him, to the Grand-Jury at the Aſſizes in *July* following. The Evidence on the ſame, was Mr. *Ward* Vicar, Mr. *Belfield*, and Mr. *Reynolds* (who by Mr. *Whitehorne*'s Proceedings were diſappointed of being Aldermen) and who pretended to go to give their Evidence, by Virtue of *Subpœnas* Served on them, and not voluntarily. Dr. *Smith* alſo was *Subpœna'd* on the ſame Occaſion, tho' he did not go; nor was ever the Penalty of the *Subpœna*, which is uſually a Hundred Pounds for his Neglect or Contempt Levied on him. And it is preſumed, that it is the Firſt time any were ever *Subpœna'd* to give Evidence on a Bill of Indictment; eſpecially when the Perſon was not before either Accuſed, or Bound over. But it is eaſily gueſs'd, from the Perſons who are the Evidences, their Inclinations as well as Reaſons for doing the ſame.

On Mr. *Biſſell*'s Return from the Aſſizes, where he was during the whole time; he was ask'd by Mr. Mayor, and others, about the Indictment Preferr'd againſt him, and what it was for. He Replied with

moſt

moſt Solemn Aſſeverations, and Imprecations, that he knew nothing of the ſame, nor ever heard one word of the ſaid Indictment, 'till after it was found by the Grand-Jury; and that he was no ways concern'd therein. Which indeed ſeems very ſtrange, conſidering that his moſt intimate Friends, Mr. *Ward*, Mr. *Belfield*, and Mr. *Reynolds* were *Subpœna'd* thither, and went on purpoſe to give Evidence thereon; therefore it could not be Accidental, but Premeditated.

At *Michaelmas*, 1710. Mr. *Henry Seagar* was Choſen Mayor, by a very great Majority of the Corporation, and duly Sworn ſuch accordingly; as were Mr. *Thomas White*, Mr. *Ridge*, and Mr. *Stanyford* Juſtices of the Peace. Who, together with Mr. *Whitehorne*, the Late Mayor, were duly Sworn Juſtices for the Year enſuing.

At which time, Mr. *Biſſell*, Mr. *Vineing*, *&c.* endeavour'd to have Mr. *Maydman* choſen Mayor, as (he own'd) they had promis'd, if he would come over to them, and Mr. *Vineing* and Mr. *Harman* Juſtices of the Peace. And tho' they had not one Vote, Scratch, or Ball regularly given, according to the Ancient and conſtant Uſage, Cuſtom, and continued Conſtitution of the Corporation; yet they, that is, Mr. *Biſſell*, Mr. *Vineing*, and Mr. *Harman*, did on the 14th of *February*, $17\frac{1}{11}$, Swear Mr. *Maydman* Mayor; and he in Return, Swore Mr. *Vineing* and Mr. *Harman* Juſtices of the Peace; tho' they knew that Mr. *Seagar*, *&c.* were Regularly and Legally Choſen and Sworn, and acknowledged by them as ſuch, till the aboveſaid 14th of *February*; at which time, they Uſurped the ſaid Authority, and took upon them to Act as ſuch, without declaring or ſhewing by what Authority they did ſo; or by Virtue of what Election they pretend to be Sworn ſuch.

All this is directly contrary to the CHARTER; which directs, that the Mayor Choſen on the *Monday* Sevenight before the Feaſt of St. *Michael*, ſhall be Sworn on the ſaid Feaſt Day, and on no other Day or Time whatſoever.

It may be very well wonder'd how it comes to paſs, that Mr. *Biſſell*, Mr. *Vineing*, Mr. *Harman*, Mr. *Ward*, and others, ſhould ſo Zealouſly Eſpouſe Mr. *Maydman*'s Cauſe, and Careſs him as they now do, conſidering the utter Enmity which ſo lately hath been between them. And leſt ſome Perſons who know *Portſmouth*, ſhould be at a loſs to know who Mr. *Maydman* is, whom they have ſet up as Mayor, purely to ſerve a Turn, to the great diſquiet of the Town (tho' at the ſame time they are either afraid or aſham'd to own by what Authority) the Reader may be ſatisfied.

That it is that Mr. *Maydman* that blam'd Mr. *Whitehorne* for not taking the firſt Bribe of Two Hundred Pounds that was offer'd him; and who told him, *That had he been in his Place, and the Two Hundred Pounds had been offer'd to him, he would have taken it, and deceived them into the Bargain.*

It was Mr. *Maydman* who Proſecuted Mr. *Harman* in his Mayoralty, and was the occaſion of his being taken up, and made a Priſoner, as going from Church on on a *Sunday*; which was then cried out againſt by Mr. *Biſſell*, Mr. *Vineing*, and others, as Barbarous and Unchriſtian.

It is the ſame Mr. *Maydman*, that gave Mr. *Biſſell* occaſion to write his Circular Letters to ſo many of his Friends, of which, here follows a true Copy.

SIR,

I *Take leave to Acquaint you, that on* Saturday *laſt a Gentleman of good Credit made me a Viſit, and hinted to me, that it had been inſinuated to ſeveral, that I had*

had not taken the Abjuration Oath, and that I was Disaffected to Her Majesty's Government. I thanked the Gentleman for the Notice, and told him, That in Loyalty I was inferior to none; that I could not help such Aspersions, for the best of Men did not go free.

On Saturday Mr. Maydman came to my Office, and Demanded to see the Rolls of Qualifications by Law; and told me, That whoever had not taken the Oaths of Allegiance and Supremacy, and the Abjuration Oath, was not Capable of holding any Office or Employment; and was under the Penalties mention'd in the 25th of King Charles the Second. I immediately produc'd to Mr. Maydman the Books, and Rolls: After Mr. Maydman had look'd over them, and found my Name Subscribed in several Places; Mr. Maydman told me, That he was not satisfied that I had Qualified my self; and demanded of me to know by what Authority I Acted as Deputy Coroner of the County? (a New Office found out for me) I Answer'd that I was no Deputy: Mr. Maydman Replied, It is your best way to find out your Certificates, without it I shall not be satisfied; or to that effect.

I cannot be Silent, when my Reputation, and the Destruction of my Family is intended. If Mr. Maydman can discover that I am not Qualified, and can Convict me by a Jury of Twelve Men (the Right of every English-Man to be Tryed by his Peers) Mr. Maydman may not only Recover of me Five Hundred Pounds for his own Use, but it will Exclude me from my Practice in Westminster-Hall, over and above his putting me out of the Office of Town-Clerk, as he hath Threaten'd to do; which Office I think is not held under so precarious a Tenure as Mr. Maydman conceives. I hope my Friends (among others I deem you to be one) will as much as in them lies, do me Justice, and give me the Character (that I flatter my self I deserve) of being Loyal to Her Majesty. I don't know

that I have given any just Offence for the Parish Register and Town Records to be search'd, to discover whether I am Qualified by Law to hold an Office. I can't omit saying 'tis unkind; because I don't know, nor have I heard that such an Attempt hath been made on any one in Portsmouth *except my self. God deliver all Her Majesties Subjects from Prosecutions on Penal Statutes; I am,*

Sir, Your most Humble Servant,

Portsmouth, *the 12th of* September, 1707. Charles Bissell.

Mr. *Bissell* and his Adherents forgot this Doctrine, when they Commenced their Prosecution against Mr. *Whitehorne*, tho' he is not only the first Man in *Portsmouth*, but probably the first in the Kingdom that ever was Indicted on this Occasion; and which Savours not only of Unkindness, but also of downright Malice and Revenge.

It was Mr. *Maydman* of whom Mr. *Bissell* said, *That he would go to Hell Gates to be Mayor of* Portsmouth, *but that he never should attain it.*

It was Mr. *Maydman*, who in a Letter he and others sent to my Lord Bishop of *Winchester*, did with his own Hand, on an inclosed Paper Stigmatize Mr. *Bissell*, Mr. *Vineing*, and others, with Disaffection (if not of being Traytors) to the Government, in these Words, *(viz.)*

* *Pray God the Church of* England *may never need to use Apostate and Proselyted Spirits* (vide Sub.) *for its Supporters, and reject her Legitimate Issue*; Biss--ll *the T--n Cl--ke, sharpens his Tools with Lyes, Stones which will make them Cut like Razors, I Pray they may never have another Opportunity to make a short turn*, &c.

* The Original Paper being in Mr. *Bissel*'s Hands, he industriously Handed about Copies thereof, to render Mr. *Maydman* Odious, as he deserv'd.

The Surv--r the which you may perceive yet by his serious Cant.

Sir *J. G——son.*

J. V——g Another Protestant Joyner.

Hen. St——ford A Protestant Carpenter.

It was Mr. *Maydman*, to whom Mr. *Vineing* with an abundance of ill Nature said, *That he was now no more Mayor of* Portsmouth, *than the Protestant Joyner, nor never should be, unless it were in the World of the Moon.*

It is the same Mr. *Maydman* that Mr. *Ward* the Vicar now Caresses and Cajoles, and makes such low Congees from the Pulpit to, as Mayor, who was the Principal Adviser and Promoter of all the Prosecutions against Mr. *Ward*, and the Chief Occasion of the Actions brought against him at Common-Law (tho' others are Reflected on for the same who knew nothing of it) and it was Mr. *Maydman* who made the following Remonstrance at that time to the *Consistory-Court* against Mr. *Ward* in Writing, under his own Hand; of which, this is a True Copy.

Paroch. de Portsmouth, July 1st, 1709. } The Subscriber hereunto doth Remonstrate to the Consistory of the Diocess of *Winton*, as follows.

THat he is of the Age of 70 Years, wanting about five Weeks, and that he maintained a strict Amity with the late Vicar Mr. Heather *to his Death; being also Concern'd with him about some Private Charities; and was generally at Parish-Meetings when in Town; and about Twenty One Years since was Chosen Church-Warden, together with one* Stratton *a Capital Dissenter, against whom the said Vicar opposed not, altho' he might justly do; nor to me did he at all propose it; but it was most commonly done by the Influence of the Magistracy, and Transacted*

thus

thus with great quietneſs (viz.) *The ſaid Vicar took the Little Book in hand, and Collected the Suffrages of the Veſtry by gueſs, after divers had been named and talked of, and as he thought the majority fell, ſaying, how like you ſuch a one, or ſuch a one; and according to the majority he Entred them, and no one but himſelf wrote therein; as alſo the Sides-Men, and Collectors for the Poor. But we were Oppoſed at the Viſitation, at the Motion of Mr.* Cranly *a Proctor, before Dr.* Clutterbooke *Arch-Deacon; That except we would Promiſe to Reimburſe the former Officers the Ballance of their Accounts out of the firſt Money we Received, they ſhould continue; the which we refuſed to do, and deſiſted for that Year, being Choſen again the next Year, and Served it; but neither then, nor before, nor after, did I ever hear the ſaid Vicar aſſume or ſay he had a ſole Right to Chuſe one Church-Warden, nor was it done till Years after the admittance of the preſent Vicar, who grew very Contentious, and was well Reprimanded by* Biſhop Mew, *and made to Retract, and Promiſe Amendment.*

The very Foundation, Riſe and Spring of the many Irregularities, Innovations, Exactions *and* Extortions *of the preſent Vicar, come from what he Contends for,* (viz.) *His ſole Choice of one Church-Warden.*

But the ſaid Irregularities, *&c. aforeſaid, are too many here to be named, yet (God willing) they ſhall be ſhew in a clear Light in due Time and Place. To the Truth hereof, is Subſcribed with Submiſſion, by*

HEN. MAYDMAN, 1709.

To Conclude this Head, it is this Mr. *Maydman* that has been a Thouſand times Curſs'd by thoſe People, who now Eſpouſe, Hugg and Cajole him, and ſet him up for a Tool to ſerve their Ends (as is apparent from their Proceedings) and to Diſturb, Ruine

and

distract the whole Town; and not from any Zeal for the Service of the Church or Government, tho' that is basely made the Pretence; and which is most Industriously, as well as Ridiculously Insinuated, to Impose on the unthinking, tho' otherwise well-meaning Part of the Town.

The Proceedings of these Gentlemen are very unaccountable, and seem to every well-meaning Person not only absurd, but also directly contrary to Law, as well as to the Doctrine of their Chief Counsellor Mr. *Bissell*; who says, *No Man can be Dispossess'd of his Right, either of Place or Free-hold, without a Legal Tryal, and a Verdict of Twelve Men (the Right of every English-Man to be Tryed by his Peers)*; yet they not only Usurp an Authority, without shewing any Power for their so doing; but also by their Proceedings, have Condemn'd and Dispossess'd Mr. *Whitehorne* (whom they Incticted) before he is heard, or comes to his Legal Tryal; by not only depriving or making void his Mayoralty, and his Actions done therein, but also Excluding him from so much as being an Alderman; by their Pretended Courts and Sessions.

As also it seems very Extraordinary, that they should pretend to Exclude Mr. *Seagar*, now Mayor, Mr. *White* and Mr. *Whitehorne* from being Aldermen, who were such long before any of them who Elected them; and who have been own'd and acknowledg'd without any Objection for so many Years, and have ever Acted as such to this very time. Their violent Proceeding in this manner, is a most Ridiculous Absurdity, purely to Amuse the Town; for who (that will but give himself time to think) can imagine that it can be in their Power to Dispossess any of their Right, without Legal Process and Conviction.

Certainly

Certainly these Gentlemen who proceed in this manner, have but little Regard to the Quiet, Ease and Welfare of the Town, which they have so long Govern'd at their Pleasure; and which they are again grasping at.

If they think they have a Right by Law to the Magistracy, why do they not Proceed Regularly and Calmly at Law to Try that Right; without Bullying, Hectoring and Threatning as they do; we are (for the Repose of the Town) very willing and ready to bring it to an Issue as soon as possible. And in the mean time, all Corporation and Parish Officers to prevent Distraction, and for the Quiet of the Town and Liberty, ought to do their Respective Duties, and receive their Directions from the Magistrates Duly Elected and Sworn at *Michaelmas*; and who undoubtedly are, and will continue such, 'till by Law they appear to be otherwise: For suppose they were Guilty of any Omission, or Commission, that would by Law render them incapable of holding their Magistracy; yet till that be made appear, and they Convicted of the same, the Jurisdiction must beyond all manner of Contradiction rest in them; and therefore such Officers ought not to take any Directions from the Usurpers; who tho' they have taken upon them the Name of Magistrates, yet cannot have the Power. For undoubtedly, had they a sufficient Authority for what they do, they would not conceal it: And indeed it would be very barbarous if they did; because those that Oppose them, not out of any Delight in Controversie, but to maintain their Right; may be thereby led into Errors, which in Justice they ought to prevent.

It is Strange and Unaccountable, that these Gentlemen cannot Support their Cause (if it be so good as they give out) without Threatning, and terrifying Officers

and

and other Persons into a Compliance with them; and without Be-lying, Slandering and Misrepresenting those they oppose (which a Good Cause stands in no need of,) as they have done for some time past, and still continue to do; by Representing them as Persons Disaffected to Her MAJESTY and Government, and Enemies to the CHURCH OF *ENGLAND*, as by Law Established; all which they know to be Lyes; their Affectionate Loyalty and Zeal for both, being as great as the best of them.

It was not any great Argument of their mighty Zeal for the Service of the CHURCH, when they not only Courted Mr. *Whitehorne*, and Mr. *White*, (the only Persons among the Aldermen, who sometimes go to the **Dissenting-Meetings**,) to Accept the Mayoralty; but also offer'd them Large Bribes to serve their Purposes (but not to serve the Church, or the GOVERNMENT) [illegible] had they Accepted of, and answer'd their Ends, the Church in *Portsmouth*, would not then have been in any Danger.

Indeed it is Dreadful to Consider, that Religion should be made a Stalking-Horse to Support the Ambition, Avarice and Revenge of Ill-Designing Persons; and to see a Party carried so great a Length, as to bear down (as with a mighty Torrent) Honesty, Truth, and Justice. Pray God a Stop may be put to all these our Unhappy Divisions and Distractions, before it be too late; and that we may once more Live together as we ought, like good Christians, good Neighbours, and Friends; and that for the Future, all Animosities, together with Envy, Hatred and Malice, and all Uncharitableness may for ever disappear amongst us. To remove these, would be very Com-

 mendable

scandalize in every one, let him be of what Side or Party soever; and it would be very Happy, if instead of Fomenting Divisions, and Embroiling the Town, every one would in his Station endeavour to Compose and Heal the same; and shew their Integrity and Zeal for the Welfare of the Town, by their Actions, and good Examples.

ERRATA.

PAge 14. *Line* 27. for *shew*, read *shewn*. P. 15. *Line* 17. for *Indicted*, read *Indicted*.